

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00724

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, ET, SO
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PERMREP VINCI'S VIEWS ON HORN

1. IN LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN PERMREP VINCI FEB 28, AMBASSADOR LEONARD ASKED FOR, AND GOT, BENEFIT OF VINCI'S KNOWLEDGE OF HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT. OF NOTE, VINCI SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE UN ACTION MIGHT BE TO HAVE OPPOSING PARTIES AIR THEIR VIEWS IN CLOSED REPEAT CLOSED SESSIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL. VINCI SAID THAT THE PRECEDENT FOR SUCH ACTION HAD BEEN SET BY CLOSED SC SESSIONS ON THE SAHARAN QUESTION IN 1976 IN WHICH (NON-MEMBER) PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT HAD BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK THEIR PIECE. VINCI'S POINT WAS THAT, IF PROMISED THAT EMBARRASSMENT OF WASHING AFRICAN LINEN IN PUBLIC COULD BE AVOIDED, AFRICANS MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO SEE SC ACTION AS COMPLEMENTARY TO OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS.

2. VINCI ALSO MADE POINT THAT HORN ISSUES SHOULD BE APPROACHED AS A WHOLE -- ERITREA AND THE OGADEN TOGETHER. AN ETHIOPIAN DECLARED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE SOME
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DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR ERITREA, VINCI THOUGHT, WOULD HELP CONSTRUCT AN ATMOSPHERE MORE CONDUCIVE TO MEDIATION EFFORTS IN THE OGADEN.

3. COMMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS THERE WERE NO FORMAL CLOSED SC MEETINGS IN 1976 ON WESTERN SAHARA, BUT VINCI MAY WELL HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO INFORMAL "CONSUL-

TATIONS" OF SC WHICH ARE CLOSED BUT OF WHICH NO FORMAL
UN RECORD IS KEPT. YOUNG

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